

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE LAWRENCE M. LAWSON

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Honorable Lawrence M. Lawson and congratulate him on his recent retirement as Monmouth Vicinage Assignment Judge. Judge Lawson has served honorably, breaking barriers and serving as an example for younger generations.

Judge Lawson received his undergraduate degree at Bowie State College (now Bowie State University) and his Juris Doctor from The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. Prior to enrolling at The Catholic University, Judge Lawson completed the Council in Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) Program and earned a 3-year scholarship for law school.

Judge Lawson's judicial experience began after he graduated from law school. In 1972, he worked as a law clerk for the late Honorable Thomas L. Yaccarino in Monmouth County, and was the first black law clerk to work in the Freehold court house. He was nominated as a Monmouth County judge by Governor Tom Kean in 1987 and was appointed to Assignment Judge on April 15, 1993, serving as the first black assignment judge. Early in his career, Judge Lawson served in the Civil Division and the Criminal Division, eventually serving as the Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division. With this assignment, Judge Lawson became the first black judge of a division of the court system. Judge Lawson retired as Assignment Judge on September 1, 2014.

In addition to his judicial service, Judge Lawson worked for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs State Office of Legal Services, held a general law practice in Asbury Park for 12 years, worked as the Asbury Park Municipal Prosecutor, the Neptune Township Board of Adjustment Attorney and served as a delegate at the 1980 Democratic National Convention and the 1984 Democratic National Convention for Ted Kennedy and Walter Mondale, respectively. Judge Lawson also served on the Neptune Township committee and was elected mayor in 1984, serving as the first black mayor of the township.

Judge Lawson is also an active member of his community. He has coached a midnight basketball team, volunteered as a mentor at Second Baptist Church and worked with the United Fellowship men's program. Through his background and community outreach, Judge Lawson has motivated the community's youth to strive for success.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Honorable Lawrence Lawson on his retirement and thanking him for his service. Judge Lawson dedicated nearly 30 years to the bench and his contributions and achievements are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IZADELI "IZA" MONTALVO VÁZQUEZ

**HON. ALAN GRAYSON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, to recognize Izadeli "Iza" Montalvo Vázquez. Iza was born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and was raised in the town of Sabana Grande. From a very early age, she demonstrated a gift for poetry and by the age of seven, she wrote her first poem. Her love for writing was inherited from her uncle, Emilio Forestier Gregory, a lawyer and published poet in Puerto Rico.

Her parents, both public school teachers, encouraged her to get involved in the community. She started writing theatrical plays for her school to bring awareness to different topics and to raise funds for student clubs. In middle school, she founded the student's newspaper, "Eco Estudiantil." Iza was an honor student throughout her school years. At the age of 14, she started playing professional volleyball. In her senior year of high school, she was offered a scholarship to play for the InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico's volleyball team. The Puerto Rican Volleyball Federation also signed her to join Las Leonas de Ponce.

In college, Iza continued to follow her passion for writing by joining the José Gautier Benítez literature club, where she received numerous awards for her poetry. She also earned third place in a poetry competition where film director, Jacobo Morales, served as the judge.

In 1998, Iza moved to New York City. She continued her undergraduate studies at St. John's University in Queens, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism in 2001. During that time, she interned at Univisión 41 in New Jersey and at El Diario La Prensa, where she was hired to work as reporter. She has reported about the protests at the United Nations against the Navy's presence on the island of Vieques, protests in Times Square against the War in Iraq, the World Economic Forum, the aftermath of September 11th, Abner Louima and Amadou Diallo's police brutality cases, and dozens of homicides.

In 2004, Iza moved to Orlando to work as a reporter for El Nuevo Día Orlando, part of Puerto Rico's largest daily newspaper. Her work has been published in newspapers including Caribbean Business, El Nuevo Día in Puerto Rico, La Prensa in Panamá, La Opinión, La Raza and El Mensajero.

Iza has also worked as a reporter for The Ledger, a company owned at the time by The New York Times Regional Newspaper Group. There she covered immigration and other topics of interest to the Hispanic community. In Florida, Iza reported on the 2004 Atlantic Hurricane Season, the NBA's All-Star Game in Orlando, and the 2012 presidential and local elections, among other stories. Iza has conducted many interviews, including one with Jose Mélendez Pérez, the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Protection Inspector at the Orlando International Airport who became a key national figure when he refused entry to a terrorist involved in planning the 9/11 attacks. As a TV producer, she arranged an exclusive

interview with Joseph Acaba, the first person of Puerto Rican heritage to be named as a NASA astronaut candidate.

Iza's professional experience also includes working as a producer for Univisión WVEN TV 26 in Altamonte Springs and as my press secretary during 2013. She has been a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) since 2001, and she was recently named honorary godmother of the International Association of Writers and Poets (AIPEH). At age 39, Iza became the editor in chief of La Prensa, Central Florida's oldest Spanish language newspaper. La Prensa is owned by ImpreMedia, the leading Hispanic news and information company in the U.S.

I am happy to recognize Iza Montalvo Vázquez, during Hispanic Heritage Month, for her contributions to the Central Florida community.

HONORING DR. TALMADGE WILLIAMS

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Dr. Talmadge Williams. He was a man of consequence who forever strived to restore balance to the scales of justice, whether it was ensuring that our government committed to telling the full story, or making sure someone he knew had a fair shot at success. And he was my friend.

I am not exactly sure when our paths first crossed, but Talmadge had a way of growing on you. As a local elected official, particularly in my early years of service, I was out almost every night at a different event, connecting with communities and constituents I represented, first at City Hall in Alexandria and subsequently in Congress.

Somewhere among the meetings and events I saw Talmadge as a familiar face and in a short while we would seek each other out and discuss local issues of concern. His quiet demeanor and keen insight made him an indispensable ally and a trusted friend.

He always seemed to know more about a local issue than what was common knowledge, and in sharing it with me, he opened my eyes to a narrative and a perspective that was largely unknown.

It was more than just folklore; it was history that was still unwritten but needed to be. And, there was often a reason it went unrecorded and remained unwritten. It was part of a painful truth that too many, particularly those in power, found inconvenient or uncomfortable to acknowledge.

Well, Talmadge's sense of justice wouldn't let it stand and a great deal of his life was devoted to finding ways to tell the full story.

One monumental way he found to tell the full story was when he conceived the idea of building in Arlington The Black Heritage Museum. It was a vision I am pleased to be associated with through congressional legislation I helped pass that reserved a segment of the Navy Annex site for the future museum.

But, Talmadge was not one to pass up on other opportunities and I was proud to join with him in restoring the surviving slave quarters at Robert E. Lee's Arlington House. You